AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A method to produce an absorbent article in the form of diaper pants, comprising:

obtaining a blank comprising an absorbent body enclosed between an inner, liquid-permeable cover sheet and an outer cover sheet, at least one cover sheet being made of a thermally-weldable material; a front portion; a rear portion; and a crotch portion extending between the front and read portions, wherein the crotch portion includes and is delimited by the leg openings of the blank; wherein the front portion and rear portion have side parts extending laterally outside the absorbent body from the waist band to the leg openings;

folding in side-edge portions of the side parts of one or both of the rear portion or front portion towards the inner cover sheet over supports placed in the side parts of either the rear or front portion and extending along the full length of the side-portions;

folding the blank about a transverse line in the crotch portion so that the end edges of the front portion and rear portion come to lie edge-to-edge and so that the side-edge portions of the front or rear portion overlap the folded-in side-edge portions of the other of the front or rear portion;

welding together the overlapping side-edge portions of the side parts within the area of the supports by means of ultrasonic or thermal welding.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the side-edge portions of the side parts of one of the rear portion or front portion are folded in towards the inner cover sheet over supports placed in the side parts of either the rear or front portion and extending along the full length of the side-portions.

3. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the supports are placed on the side parts before the side-edge portions of the side parts of the rear portion or front portion are folded in, and wherein folding is obtained by turning the supports.

4. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the front portion and rear portion of the blank are the same width, and wherein the side-edge portions of the side parts of the portion of the front portion and rear portion with unfolded side edge portions are offset sideways towards each other by a distance which corresponds to the reduction in width as a result of the folding-in of the side-edge portions of the second portion before folding the blank about a transverse line in the crotch portion.

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 4, wherein at least those parts, extending within the areas for the supports of the side-edge portions of the side parts of the portion of the front portion and rear portion which is to have unfolded side-edge portions are kept in a relaxed and unstressed state during the folding and welding steps.

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the portion of the front portion or rear portion with unfolded side edge portions has a width corresponding to the width of the other of the front or rear portion after its side-edge portions have been folded in over the supports.

7. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article in the form of diaper pants or a sanitary panty with a waist opening and two leg openings, comprising:

an absorbent body enclosed between an inner, liquid-permeable cover sheet and an outer cover sheet, at least one of said cover sheets being made of a thermally-weldable material;

a front portion;

a rear portion; and

a crotch portion extending between the front and rear portions,

wherein the crotch portion includes and is delimited by the leg openings of the absorbent article;

wherein the front portion and rear portion have side parts extending laterally outside the absorbent body from the waist opening to the leg openings and which are at least partially elastic, each side part including a side-edge portion extending from the waist opening to the leg opening;

wherein the side-edge portions of one of the front portion ~~or~~ and the rear portion overlap the side-edge portions of the other of the front portion ~~or~~ and the rear portion, wherein each of the side-edge portions of at least one of the front portion and the rear portion comprises a ~~optionally comprising~~ folded ~~parts~~ part defined by an end edge of the inner cover sheet being folded over so as to face the inner cover

sheet, wherein the folded parts bear against and are connected directly to the inner cover sheet of the side-edge portions of the other of the front portion and the ~~or~~ rear portion by ~~means of~~ a weld seam extending along the full length of the side-edge portions.

8. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to Claim 7, wherein the side-edge portions of only one of the front portion ~~or~~ and the rear portion comprise folded parts ~~overlap the side-edge portions of the other of the front or rear portion without folded parts and are connected to the side-edge portions of the other of the front or rear portion by means of a weld seam extending along the full length of the side-edge portions~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to Claim [[6]] 7, wherein the weld seam has a width of 6-10 mm.

10. (Original) The absorbent article according to Claim 9, wherein the weld seam can be torn open.

11. (Original) The absorbent article according to Claim 10, wherein the weld seam has a strength of 10-45 N/25mm.

12. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 9, wherein the weld seam has a width of 7-9 mm.

13. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 12, wherein the weld seam has a width of 8 mm.

14. (Newly added) The absorbent article of Claim 7, wherein the side-edge portions of the rear portion comprise the folded parts.

15. (Newly Added) The absorbent article of Claim 7, wherein the folded part is defined by the end edge of the inner cover sheet being folded over approximately 180 degrees so as to face the inner cover sheet.